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George Johnson Jr. [Philadelphia, PA] to W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] regarding: news of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, organic chemists of Europe anxious to get hold of St. Martin because Beaumont's analysis of the constituents of chyme (undigested food) was not complete. January 13, 1840

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205 Market St. Phil^a

Jan^y. 13. 1840

Doctor Beaumont

St. Louis mo.

Having been, in a measure, thrown upon your protection at an early age, and for no inconsiderable period associated with you in the discharge of your official functions, and having received repeated marks of kindness and friendship from you, for which I shall be ever ready to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude. I feel that it is no less my duty as it is my desire to prove that I am grateful.

I wrote to you a few days after my arrival in Washington. I was anxious to have been able to give you some information in relation to a subject you mentioned to me just before leaving St. Louis, but on account of the short sojourn I made in Washington, family affliction and the prudence I considered it necessary to observe, I was unable to illicit anything important. Although much time will elapse before I shall be able to take farther steps in the matter alluded to, yet I shall not lose sight of the object in view.

I have matriculated in the University of Penn: which is now the most flourishing of three medical schools here. The McClellens having been turned out of the Jefferson College last year, have established a new school which is called the Penn: college

There are six lectures delivered daily at the University and in order to keep pace with the Professors, it requires nearly six hours study at night. I am determined to acquire all the knowledge in my power whilst I am here and nearly every moment of time I have devoted to study. I am perfectly aware that everything depends upon my exertions now - if good use is not made of the next twelve months, and I do not obtain my degree, I am ruined. - Generally speaking the Professors are interesting ~~speaking~~ teachers, and amiable men. Dr. Chapman I particularly admire, and he is just such a man as, I think, you would like.

Dr. Jackson, our Professor of Physiology, in his lecture last Saturday on chymification, quoted your authority very frequently and commented upon your experiments in a complimentary manner generally, but in concluding the subject he remarked that the constituents of chyme was as yet very imperfectly ascertained, and he much regretted that Dr. Beaumont had not taken St. Martin to Europe in order to have the Gastric juice and chyme ^{analyzed} ~~experimented~~ upon by a body of organic Chemists, and rather insinuated that ^{you} ~~you~~ must have been wanting in zeal in the cause of Med. science because you did not take the Man to Europe. Immediately after the lecture I went to Dr. Jackson's ^{room} and told him I thought he had done you injustice by not stating to the class the analysis made by Professors Lilliman and Dunglison at your

request. He replied that there were no organic chem-
-ists in this country - that organic chemistry was per-
-haps the most difficult of the sciences, and sufficient
attention had not been paid to it in this country.
In Europe such men as Barus, Dumas, Prevost &c. had
made that branch of science their particular study
and might be supposed to know something about
it. I answered, that what he asserted might be
true - I did not feel myself competent to discuss
that point with him - but I felt authorized to say
that you originally contemplated visiting Europe with
St. Martin, but was prevented, I believe, by the per-
-suasions of the late Surgeon General; at any rate
I could inform him, on my own knowledge, that
you possessed as much zeal in the caparrival in
Waco as any other member of the Professor's group.

Dr. Jackson then remarked that he was very glad
I had made the above statement - at his next lec-
-ture he would take pleasure in removing from the
minds of the class any impression of censure which
his former remarks might have induced. To day
he made a very satisfactory explanation or apology.

Dr. Gibson when lecturing upon wounds of the viscera
complimented you in a very handsome manner indeed.
He stated that there never was a wound of the stomach
of such magnitude cured as that of St. Martin's. Gibson
says that the Physicians of Europe are very anxious to
get hold of St. Martin and that he was requested by some
of them to write to you on the subject. Dr. Jackson

observed that he had seen, in a late number of the transactions of the Royal college of Physicians, that some measures had been taken in order to obtain St. Martin for experiment. — I have, perhaps, too far intruded upon your time and patience. Remember me with much regard to Mr. Beaumont and each of the family — also to Capt. Kingsbury. Just write me a line saying you are well. With much esteem and regard I remain, your truly, George Johnson Jr.

[Red ink flourish]

William Beaumont Esq;

Surgeon of
St. Louis mo:



Yours truly

Geo Johnson

his letter
author